

ALMALAUREA: from University courses evaluation to graduates placement

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Born in a narrow basement of the University of Bologna, the ALMALAUREA project has made a name for itself over the course of its first 13 years of activity as a highly qualified component of the entire Italian university system. It aims at monitoring the quality of the formative processes of graduates as well as their occupational condition and at facilitating the intersection between demand and supply of qualified labour. The institutionalisation as an inter-university consortium and the growing voluntary membership of an ever more substantial number of universities (49 universities, with 790,000 curricula vitae stored in a databank) has rendered ALMALAUREA a nearly indispensable point of reference for the universities' governing bodies, for analysts, students, teachers, and for businesses seeking qualified personnel. ALMALAUREA's uniqueness lies in having created an integrated system capable of guaranteeing documentation which is *complete* (universities are accepted into the Consortium on condition that they make available information on their entire student body), *periodic* (the surveys are taken at regular intervals), *well-timed* (year after year, a 'snapshot' of the universities' internal and external performances may be obtained) and *updatable* (the databank is 'living' to the extent that the curriculum vitae are updated by the graduates themselves and therefore kept up with the graduates' professional pursuits). All of these factors are made possible by the extended use of information technologies, both for managing the graduate databank and for disseminating its services via the Internet.

The database collects detailed information about every graduate directly from the universities. The graduate registers to the AlmaLaurea website, he/she fills a survey, that, merged with the certified data transmitted by the university builds a CV made available to employers. In the mean time, even more information are made available for statistical purposes allowing for deep and detailed analysis of the graduates' profile [1].

The database is further enriched with information about training and working experiences after graduation collected by CAWI/CATI (Computer Assisted Web/Telephone Interview) technologies. The surveys are collected 1, 3 and 5 years after graduation with response rates from 79% up to 85% [2].

This paper will describe the organization of the Consortium, its processes and the technological infrastructure. It will be also introduced the EAL-NET project (www.eal-net.org), the extension of ALMALAUREA to different European countries: with an experimental approach aimed to introduce a common framework to make possible comparison among graduates from different countries and the graduates occupation and job mobility on the European labour market. Enterprises for the first time will have at their disposal a great comparative, multilingual and transnational tool based on certificated degrees, young people competences and first job experiences belonging to several European H.E. Institutions with different national backgrounds.

[1] *Il profilo dei laureati 2005*, Consorzio Interuniversitario AlmaLaurea, Bologna (see also previous works 1994 - 2005)

<http://www.almalaurea.it/eng/universita/profilo/>

[2] *Condizione occupazionale dei Laureati. Indagine 2005*, Consorzio Interuniversitario AlmaLaurea, Bologna (see also previous works 1998 - 2005).

<http://www.almalaurea.it/eng/universita/occupazione/>